

I am Melanie DuPont. In 2018, I ran for Rhode Island State Senate, and I am now the Secretary of the Rhode-Island Democratic-Party Women's Caucus.

A vital part of the Mission of the Women's Caucus, is to ensure gender equality in our laws.

Therefore I contend that, any time my State Representative, Gregory J. Costantino, tries to abridge **my** rights as a woman, and endanger **my** life, I, Melanie DuPont, should return the favor, and try to abridge **his** rights as a man, and endanger **his** life.

Therefore I introduce the following Amendments to House Bill 5114, formerly known as the THE RHODE ISLAND UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION FROM DISMEMBERMENT ABORTION ACT, which I hereafter refer to as the Testicular Fairness Act.

On page 2, in the section 23-13.8-1. **Definitions**, after line 13, I propose the following addition:

(4)(i) "Laparoscopic vasectomy" means: with the purpose of causing the **sterility** of a **man or boy**, using a laparoscope, or similarly pointed instrument, to knowingly **puncture scrotal flesh**, then using clamps, grasping forceps, tongs, scissors or similar instruments to **locate, grasp, and stretch both vas deferens tubes so they protrude outside the body**, then **slicing through said tubes**, then sealing all four ends of the tubes by tying them, cauterizing them with searing heat, attaching surgical clips, or any combination of methods, then stuffing the vas deferens back into to the scrotum, then **stitching or gluing the** scrotum holes shut, with or without

anesthesia.

On page 2, after section **23-13.8-2. Prohibition of dismemberment abortions**, after line 32, I propose the following section be inserted:

Prohibition of laparoscopic vasectomies.

No person shall perform, or attempt to perform, a laparoscopic vasectomy on any person.

On page 3, in section **23-13.8-3. Injunctive relief**, after line 6, I propose the following paragraph be inserted:

A cause of action for injunctive relief, against any person who has knowingly violated the provisions of this chapter, may be maintained by: the **man** upon whom the **laparoscopic vasectomy** was performed or attempted; any person who is the **spouse, parent, guardian, conservator, or a current or former licensed health care provider** of the **man** upon whom a **laparoscopic vasectomy** has been performed or attempted; or by the office of the **attorney general**. The injunction shall prevent the **vasectomy** provider from performing further **vasectomies**.

On page 3, in section **23-13.8-4. Civil remedies**, after line 28, I propose the following paragraphs be inserted:

(a) A cause of action for civil damages against a person who has performed a **laparoscopic vasectomy** may be maintained by the following persons:

- (1) A **man** upon whom a **laparoscopic vasectomy** has been performed;
- (2) The **spouse** of the **man**, if

married to the **man** at the time the **laparoscopic vasectomy** was performed; or

(3) The parents or custodial guardians of the **man**, if the **man** has not attained the age of eighteen (18) years at the time of the **laparoscopic vasectomy** or has died as a result of the **laparoscopic vasectomy**.

(b) Damages awarded in such an action shall include:

(1) Money damages for all injuries, psychological and physical, occasioned by the **laparoscopic vasectomy**;

(2) Statutory damages equal to three (3) times the cost of the **laparoscopic vasectomy**;

(3) Injunctive relief; and

(4) Reasonable attorneys' fees.

(c) No person is estopped from recovery in such a suit on the ground that either the plaintiff, or the person upon whom the **laparoscopic vasectomy** was performed, gave consent to the **laparoscopic vasectomy**. Any contract of indemnification for such damages is void.

On page 4, after section **23-13.8-5. Provision for anonymity of female**, after line 9, I propose the following insertion:

Provision for anonymity of male.

In every proceeding or action pursuant to this chapter, the court shall make no effort to protect the anonymity of any male party to the case, regardless of whether any male party has requested anonymity.

On page 4, to section **23-13.8-6. Construction**, after line 16, I propose the following insertion:

(a) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as creating or recognizing a right to **vasectomy**, nor a right to a particular method of **vasectomy**.

(b) It is not the intention of this chapter to make lawful a **vasectomy** that is currently unlawful.

On page 5, after line 1, I propose the following insertion:

This act would define and prohibit **laparoscopic vasectomies** without exception.

If passed into law, this amended bill, the Testicular Fairness Act, would ensure that the State interferes in **men's** surgical decisions alongside women's surgical decisions. It would ensure that **men** receive suboptimal medical care, risk infection and death, and have their reproductive choices overridden by the State. Just as it would ensure that **women** receive suboptimal medical care, risk infection and death, and have their reproductive choices overridden by the State.

Since more women die of pregnancy complications, than men die of vasectomy complications, the risk that legislators choose to thrust upon fertile Rhode Islanders can never be **equal** in regards to sex. What's important, is that we make sure the State **tries** to ruin people's lives equally, **regardless** of gender or sex, by robbing **all** residents of the right to decide whether and when to reproduce.

On the other hand, we could recognize House Bill 5114 as trashy beyond repair. How about we just send it to the trash heap of history where it belongs, along with the incumbency of all five Representatives who cosponsored it.

House Bill 5114 is unconstitutional, amoral, and unDemocratic. The Rhode Island State Representatives who sponsored it -- Corvese, Azzinaro, Vella-Wilkinson, Fellela, and Costantino -- should be ashamed to call themselves Democrats.

My name is Melanie DuPont. Members of the Rhode Island House Committee on Judiciary, I welcome your questions.